

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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-----037317 240443Z /63

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0467

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 13068

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: PAUL DIJOURD -- NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OVER-
SEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES (DOM-TOM)

1. AT 38 YEARS OF AGE (BORN [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 09 DEC 2014]), PAUL DIJOURD HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED A REMARKABLE TRACK RECORD. HE HAS A DEGREE IN LAW AND ADVANCED DEGREES FROM SCIENCES PO AND ENA. DIJOURD HAS HELD THE SEAT OF DEPUTY FROM HAUTES-ALPES (BRIANCON) SINCE 1967, WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY (NOW PR) 1967-1969 AND FIRST ENTERED THE GOVERNMENT IN APRIL, 1973. HE SERVED FIRST AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PROFES-

SIONAL, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THEN AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT (MARCH-MAY 1969), FOR IMMIGRANT LABOR (1974-1977) AND FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS (1977-1978) TO SUCCEED JEAN-PIERRE SOISSON WHO LEFT TO FORM THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. IN ADDITION, DIJOURD HAS BEEN MAYOR OF BRIANCON SINCE 1971. HE VISITED THE US AS A LEADER GRANTEE IN 1969.

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2. DIJOURD'S CONTINUING SERVICE AS SECRETARY OF STATE IN A SUCCESSION OF GOVERNMENTS AND JOBS IS A GOOD INDICATION OF HIS WIDE-RANGING ABILITIES. HE IS IN THE MORE LIBERAL WING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, A SOLID SUPPORTER OF GISCARD, AND AN ADVOCATE OF SUBSTANTIAL REFORMS. DIJOURD BELIEVES THAT THE TREND OF EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT IS SOCIA-

LIST-DEMOCRATIC AND THAT FRANCE MUST BE IN TUNE WITH THIS
EVOLUTION. AFTER GISCARD BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1974, DI-
JOURD WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF HIS BRIDGES TO THE MODERATE
SOCIALISTS IN AN EFFORT TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE LEFT
AND WORK TOWARD AN EVENTUAL COOPERATION WITH THE GOF.
THESE EFFORTS FAILED AT THE TIME. IT WILL BE INTERESTING
TO SEE IF DIJOURD RECEIVES A RENEWED COMMISSION FROM THE
PRESIDENT IN THE PRESENT POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD. DI-
JOURD'S MOTHER IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND HE SPEAKS
EXCELLENT ENGLISH.
HARTMANGAMMON

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